PATHULOGIJT FINALLY SEES JOHN KENNEDY AUTOPSY REPORT: WEUNDS SHOW THERE HAD TO BE MORE THAN ONE ALSASSIN.

JOHN COVERT

(AFS) -- You'd trink people would listen to a man like Cyril Wech!

He's a forers coarnoligist - 8 person with degrees in both law and medicine Has Research Professor of Law and Director Institute of Forensic Sciences al Duquesne University in Pillaburgh and a Clinical Assistant Professor of Pathology at the University of Pittsburgh Medical School He's also a recent past presiden of both the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and of the American College of Legal Medicine Besides that he's the Coroner of Allegheny County (Pittsburgh)

But when the discussion turns to the charges of Wecht of discrepancies in the Warren Commission Report on the assassination of

President John Kennedy persisten silence is the official respurse

This August, Wecht became the ascond non-devernmental medical expert allowed to view the items from the autopsy of President Kenpody stored at the National Archives la Washington

"In a recent interview Wecht said the questioned the Warren Commission's findings even before his two days of research at the Ar chives. But when he came ou' his tenable, unacceptable and absolutely incorrect as far as its fin- for the flight to Washington dings on Lee Harvey Oswald and the single assessin theory "

sterial be released to the public situation got worse during the lifetime of Kennedy family Wecht said three staff doctors related sciences" be allowed to view pathology

is a urologist - a kidney and blad-acted as military subordinates der specialist - whose only

that he has been a consistent defender of the Commission's findings. Lattimer spent just three hours in the Archives last January and immediately afterwards released his conclusion that the autopsy liams supported the Warren Commission's Andinas

Wecht than, was the first critic of the Warren Commission Report to De allowed entrance, and this only after he spent nearly a year attempling to get permission from Burke Marshall, a low professor at Yale Law School who acts as an official epresentative for the Kennedy amily Weith says he probably vouldn't have gotten permission at If If Marshall hadro't been prodded w other interested in the autopey W/715

When we thresh die make it to

the Archives on August 23 and 24 he said he discovered a number of autopsy items were inexplicably missing - most notably the preser ved brain of the President and a number of microscopic slides of tissues removed from the bullet wounds So lar no one has explained the disappearances But what remained at the Archives was enough for Wecht to confirm his

In our interview Wecht recreated the scene at Dealey Plaza and Parkland Hospital in Dallas and at the Betnesda Navai Hospital, where the autopsy was performed the evening of the assassination

In Dealey Plaza the President's car "had just made a right hand turn and was proceeding to an underpass when shots rang out President Kennedy clutched his throat Gover nor John Connally was struck, then Kennedy was struck in the head " By the time the President was brought to Parkland Hospital nearly 30 minutes later he was already dead with the basics of "life" preserved only by machine

"Under Texas law the autopsy would have been performed in Dallas said Wecht "But there was much confusion a lot of shouting and ordering going on and even

conclusion was that "the Warran fually through ruse and other factics Commission Report is totally un- the body was taken out a private door and put aboard Air Force One

"Now the autopsy at Bethesda Naval Hospital should not have been The Kennedy family turned over any cause for confusion Unfornumerous Items from the autopsy to tunately instead of the time lapse the Archives in October, 1966, with being used to get the most qualified the stipulation that none of the pathologists for the autopsy the

dembers, and that after five years were given the task only one of I "escognized experts in pathology or whom had experience with forensic "It was essentially a om military undertaking Admirals.
The first "expert" granted per-generals. FBI and Secret Service mission to view the items was Dr. personnel were present in the room John Lattimer of New York, Lettimer to oversee the autopsy. The doctors

According to records made a qualification seems to have been Parkland Hospital Wecht said doc tors there noted two wounds one a huge gaping hole, on the right side of Kennedy's head and the other a found circular hole in the middle front of his throat

Doctors performing the autopsy in Washington, however, noted these wounds: the huge gaping hole in his head, a smaller hole in the upper back of his head, and a hole in his six inches below shoulder level. This letter wound was puzzling because no exi! wound was found for it, yet the bullet was not in the body

"They concluded, said Wech! "that the bullet which had entered his back fell out of the same hole onto a stretcher when doctors at Parkland administered pressure to the President's chest to revive his heart And, Indeed, a bullet has

been found on a stretcher by a ianitor at Parkland during the early evening of the twenty-second

The wound in the throat was not even examined at Parkland because doctors had, in their hasts, used the bullet hole to insert a breathing device into the President's throat Thus the Bethesda physicians noted only an incision in their report. No one there had enough forensic experience to realize the incision was actually a bullet wound said

And so Weight went on, the doctors at Bernesda released the body for burial and gave their results Kennedy had been hit twice, once in the back line bullet of which fell out later from the same hole), and once in the head (the bullet of which fragmented). Nothing was said about the smaller wound on the head and of course, Hitthing was said about the throat wound

Wecht said the embarrassing parl of the autops, came the next day after the body was already gone when the ductors learned for the first time that there had also been a wound in the throat Rather than admit their mistake and re-examine The body. Weight said the ductors made a "despicable choice and chose to be quiet about it

The easiest way ou' was to match up the wound six inches below the shoulders in his back and the wound in his throat (Editor's Note this would have meant that President Kennedy was shot from the from from the grassy knott, while Oswala was in the book depository at Kennedy's rear! But you couldn't very well have a bulle' entering his back six inches below the neck, then make a sudden U-turn and exit out the throat," said Wecht, "So they simply altered the sketches that had pinpointed the wounds. I've seen the first sketches made of the wounds and they showed a wound six inches below the shoulders I've also seen the holes in Kennedy's shirt and jacket and everything matches up But in their testimony for the Warren Commission the ductors simply moved the hale up several inches to make everything plausible Nobody challenged them. They slaid they hadred drawn the first skelches to scale but now they could remember where the wound was Every other hold, sear, inclision and mark was drawn in exactly Only this hole was several inches off"

Wecht said that in December 1966, he was allowed to view the Zapruder film of the assassination.

which he did over 100 times in addition to examining blow-ups of each frame. He said that using this film, the FBI was able to gauge the length of time between the first and last times the President was struck, which turned out to be about six seconds. They also test-fired Lee Harvey Oswald's rifle (a single-shot, bottaction Manlicher Carcano) and found that the quickest it could be loaded and fired - never mind a med -2.3 seconds. This presented a profile problem in that four pulled apparen ly were fired, and the length of the between them purper edia was seconds. Yet it would take Comseven seconds just to get all the many shots.

The results indicated it was an impossibility that one person could have done all the shooting. Wedn't said It was this contradiction that led to the Commission's "single of magic" bullet theory — which affirmed that one bullet "entered John Kennedy's back and exited through his neck, went Into Governor Connally's right back (breaking a rib). exited from his right chest into his right wrist where if shadered a large bone, then went into his right thigh, only to be found fater on the stratcher at Parkland Mospital."

"Whatever needed to be done to correct their Inconsistencies was done," Wecht charged, "because od one else knew what was going on and it was not until years later that private investigators had a chance to see the evidence."

Warren Commission exhibit number 399 is the bullet that was found on the stretcher at Parkland Hospital, Wecht says his examination of the Archive x-rays shows particles of metal in Kennedy's cheet and also in Connaily a chest - traces of the bullet that passed through them. This same bullet, according to the Warren Commission, was also supposed to have broken one of Connally's ribs and shattered a bone in his wrist. The bullet is a 6.5 mm, shell with an original weight of 161 grams. Two more inconsistencies presented themselves, said Wecht, because the bullet found at Parkland has a weight of 159 grams

1) According to the Commission's report, the bullet lost only two grams of weight in passing through both Kennedy and Connatty and leaving traces behind in both.

2) and after doing all this damage to both men the bullet has "no

beformities in its upper two-thirds at all and the bottom one-third shows only very minimal flattening with no russ of substance."

In addition, one small section of the base of the bullet was comoved by the FBI for examination, which brings up the question of how the bullet could have lost any substance in pessing through the two men and still weigh 159 grams after the FBI sample was removed

Still another impossible consequence of the Commission's findings was that the bullet was moving from right to left as it passed through Kennedy, then had to turn abruptly in mid-air and go into Connally's right back (Connelly was seated directly in front of Kennedy at the time). "Bullets only do that in comic books," asid Wecht.

"There is not one foreisc.

assassin is destroyed. The evidence clearly indicates inal at least more than one person was involved in the

shooting

Wecht claimed no special infor mation about who the other assassin's might be but implicated Datlas Patrolman J.D. Tippet as part of the conspiracy According to Wecht 45 minutes after the assassination Tippet Who was in a place he had no business being' (since all police had been ordered to Dealey Plazal spotted Oswald walking down a street "decided that he was the assassin and went after him - only to be himself killed

"JD Tippet was there to do a job that because of his failure Jack Ruby had to complete two days later," Wecht said

"By legal definition we're dealing

with a conspiracy te sale And who is behind if all? Wecht boints to members of the CIA. He said of its a well-known fact in Washington that Oswald had been on the payroll of the CIA up to the time of the assassination. The CIA has pulled bloody, cut-throat operations all around the world." he said "yet no

one wants to believe that it could happen here."

Wacht's conclusions as limited as they are, parallel former New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison's conclusions. Garrison (with whom Wecht has conferred on the assessination investigation) claims that a group of right-wing CIA members along with members of the Cuben exile community and others plotted and carried out the assassination, believing that President Kennedy was beginning a leftward drift that threatened national security, and was also conaldering an easing of relations with Fidel Castro.

Lee Harvey Oswald lived for 38 hours after the assassination. All that time he was being interrogated by federal, state, and local authorities. Yet, said Wecht, we are told that not one note, tape recording, or transcript was made in all that 36 hours of Interrogation.

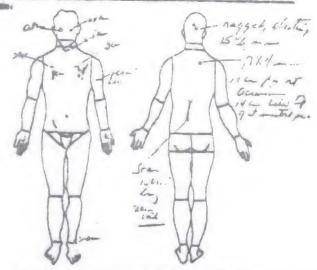
Yet the Dallas police force was reputed at the time to be one of the most experienced in handling homocide cases.

Yet who listens to all this? complained Cyril Wecht, His visit to the National Archives and his important findings resulted in a brief flurry of headlines around the country and little else. No one has come forth to challenge anything he has said, even his most damning indictments of the Warren Commission findings, Government policy seems to be to ignore the chilics and hope they eventually go away

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Withreson lightlifed the source of the shots as the sixth floor of tem of cp. n _ir Texas Caly baildin

This Secret Service reconstruction of the assessination, one of a series sil reporting the Governor was struck by a superate tulier was prepared after the Secret Pervisa had the autopay report is consistent with the PBI forms! report.

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